

PLAGUE

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** A febrile illness caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*, with a variety of clinical symptoms including: regional lymphadenitis (bubonic plague), septicemia without evident buboes, pharyngitis and cervical lymphadenitis, and pneumonia.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Clinical diagnosis initially; laboratory confirmation required to meet case definition.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
- Isolation of *Y. pestis* from a clinical specimen, **OR**
 - Fourfold or greater change in serum antibody to *Y. pestis* fraction 1 (F1) antigen.
- D. **KENTUCKY CASE DEFINITION:** A case that is laboratory confirmed.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES URGENT NOTIFICATION:** REPORT TO THE LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT **IMMEDIATELY** upon recognition of a case or suspected case in a time period not greater than 24 hours. If health department personnel cannot be contacted directly, notification shall be made by telephone to the emergency number of the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning: **1-888-973-7678**.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUIRED:**
1. Kentucky Reportable Disease Report Form – EPID 200 (Rev. Jan/03).
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**
- Ensure that appropriate isolation precautions are being taken at the facility in which the patient is hospitalized.
 - Assess need for chemoprophylaxis and surveillance for persons exposed to case patients.
 - Source investigation) should be conducted. Search for history of travel to plague-endemic areas, or contact with persons or animals from plague-endemic areas.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH DATA BRANCH: 502-564-3418.
- B. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, DEPARTMENT FOR LABORATORY SERVICES: 502-564-4446.

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

1. Chin, James, ed. PLAGUE. In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 17th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000: 381 - 387.
2. Prevention of Plague: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR 1996; 45(No. RR-14): 1-15.
3. Pickering, LK, ed. Plague. In: 2000 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 25th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: 450-452.